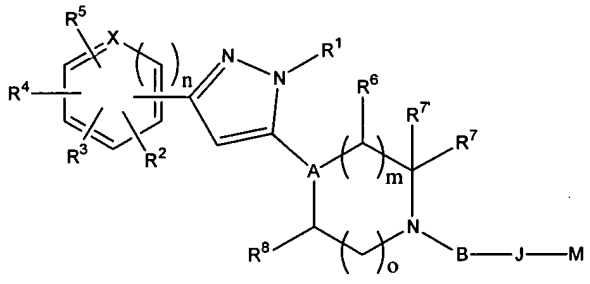
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

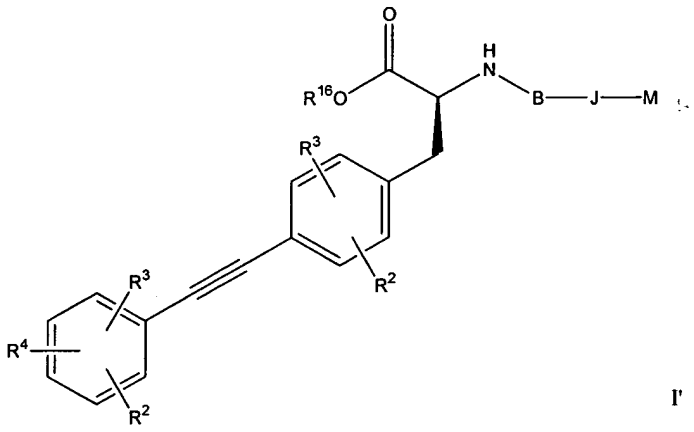
Amend the paragraphs commencing on page 3, line 1, through page 5, line 25 as follows (changes are highlighted):

In a first aspect, this invention is compounds of formula I or formula I'



I

~~where~~



I'

where:

m is an integer selected from 0, 1, and 2;

n and o are integers independently selected from 0 and 1;

A is selected from the group consisting of N and CH;

B is selected from the group consisting of $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-NH-$, $-CH_2-O-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-S-CH_2-$, $-C(=O)-NH-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-C(=O)-NH-$, $-C(=O)-CH_2-C(=O)-$,

-C(=O)-NH-CH_2-, -C(=O)-, -S(=O)-, -S(=O)$_2$-, -S(=O)-NH-, -S(=O)$_2$-NH-, -S(=O)-CH_2-, -S(=O)$_2CH_2$-, -S(=O)-CH_2-NH-, -S(=O)$_2$-CH_2-NH-, -S(=O)$_2$-NH-CH_2-, -CH_2-S(=O)$_2$-NH-, -C(=O)-NH-S(=O)$_2$-, -S(=O)$_2$-NH-C(=O)-, -C(=O)-CH_2-S(=O)$_2$-, and –S(=O)$_2$-CH_2-C(=O)-;

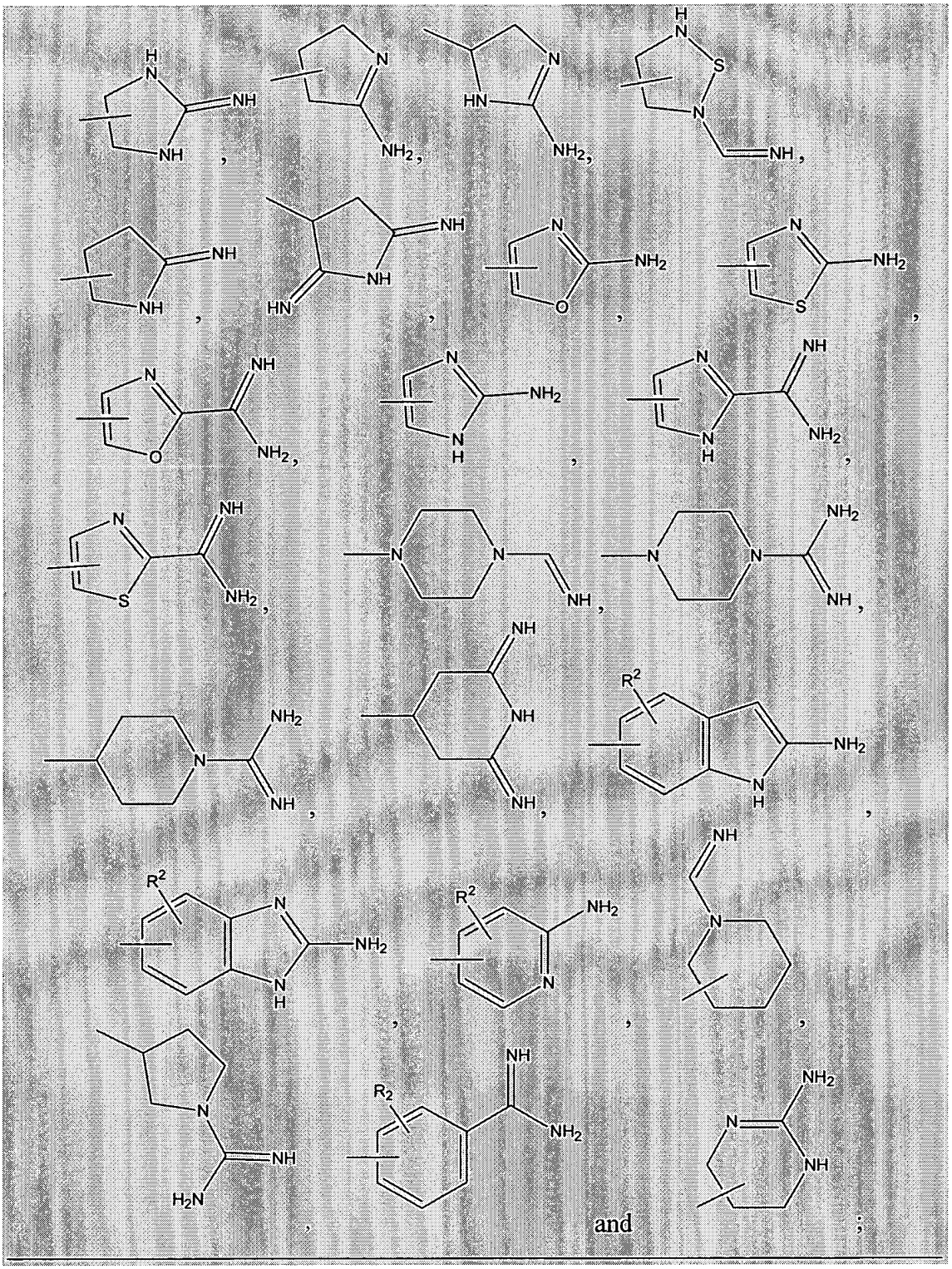
J is absent or selected from the group consisting of –O-, -S-, -CHR^{15}-O-, -CH_2-CHR^{15}-O-, -NH-, -NH-CHR^{15}-, [-NH-(C_2-C_6alkyl)-,] -NH-CHR^{15}-C(=O)-, -C(=O)-, -CH_2-, -CHR^{15}-CH_2-NH-, -C(=O)-CHR^{15}-, -NH-C(=O)-CH(C_1-C_6alkyl)-, -NH-C(=O)-CH(C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl)-, -CH_2-CH_2-, -CH_2NH-, -CH_2-NH-C(=O)-, -CH_2-NH-C(=O)-C_1-C_6alkyl-, -CH_2-NH-C(=O)-CH(C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl)- and –C(=O)-CHR^{15}-NH-; or

B-J is selected from the group consisting of –C(=O)-CH_2-NH-C(=O)-CH(C_1-C_6alkyl), -C(=O)-CH_2-NH-C(=O)-CH(C_3-C_{12}cycloalkyl)-, -C(=O)-NH-(C_2-C_6alkyl),-S(=O)$_2$-NH-(C_2-C_6alkyl)-, -C(=O)-NH-, -S(=O)$_2$-NH-, -C(=O)-CH- and -S(=O)-CH_2-;

L is selected from the group consisting of –O-, –CH_2-O-, -O-CH_2-, -CH_2-CH_2-O-, -O-CH_2-CH_2-, -CH_2-O-CH_2-, -CH_2-S-CH_2-, -C(=O)-NH-, -O-C(=O)-NH-, -CH_2-C(=O)-NH-, -C(=O)-CH_2-NH-, -C(=O)-NH-CH_2-, -NH-C(=O)-, NH-C(=O)-O-, -NH-CH_2-C(=O)-, -NH-C(=O)-CH_2-, -CH_2-NH-C(=O)-, -NH-C(=O)-NH-, -NH-S(=O)$_2$-NH-, -NH-S(=O)$_2$-, -NH-S(=O)$_2$-CH_2-, -CH_2-NH-S(=O)$_2$-, -S(=O)$_2$-NH-, -S(=O)$_2$-NH-CH_2-, -CH_2-S(=O)$_2$-NH-, -C(=O)-NH-S(=O)$_2$-, -S(=O)$_2$-NH-C(=O)-, -CH_2-NH-, -CH_2-CH_2-NH-, -NH-CH_2-, -NH-CH_2-CH_2-, -CH_2-NH-CH_2-, -C≡C-, -CH_2-C≡C-, -CH_2-CH_2-, -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-, -CH_2-CH=CH-, CH=CH-CH_2-, and –CH=CH-;

M is selected from the group consisting of R^9 and an optionally substituted group selected from phenyl, naphthyl, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, and heterocyclyl, the heterocyclyl group being aliphatic, partially unsaturated, or aromatic, and containing 1 or 2 rings each containing 5-7 ring atoms of which 0-3 are hetero atoms selected from N, O and S, provided that at least one ring contains a heteroatom and where any ring carbon or sulfur may optionally be oxidized, the optional substituents being up to three groups selected from R^1, R^2 and R^9; or

M is selected from the group consisting of



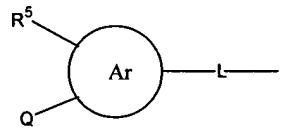
and ;

Q is selected from the group consisting of $-C(=O)OR^{16}$, $-C(=O)-NH-C(=O)-CF_3$, $-C(=O)-NH-S(=O)_2-R^2$, $-C(=O)-NR^1-OH$, 5-oxo-4,5-dihydro[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl, and tetrazolyl;

X is A when n is 1, and is CH, N, O or S when n is 0;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, and (C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl;

R^2, R^3 and R^5 are individually selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy, benzyl, C_1-C_6alkyl, halo, halo-C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, hydroxy, C_1-C_2alkoxy-methoxy, hydroxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, formyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyl, amino, C_1-C_6alkylamino, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylaminocarbonyl, formylamino, and C_1-C_6alkylcarbonylamino, where any alkyl or phenyl may optionally be substituted with halo or Q;

R^4 is selected from the group consisting of R^2 and 

where Ar is a homo- or hetero-aryl group having 1 or 2 rings, each ring containing 5, 6 or 7 ring atoms of which 1-3 may be heteroatoms selected from N, O and S;

R^6 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, halo, halo-C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, $HC(=O)-C_1-C_6$alkyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, carbonylamino-C_1-C_6alkyl, aminocarbonyl, $(C_1-C_6$alkyl)aminocarbonyl, di$(C_1-C_6$alkyl)aminocarbonyl, and aminocarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkyl;

R^7 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, halo, halo-C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, $HC(=O)-C_1-C_6$alkyl, carboxy, carboxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, carbonylamino-C_1-C_6alkyl, aminocarbonyl, $(C_1-C_6$alkyl)aminocarbonyl, di$(C_1-C_6$alkyl)aminocarbonyl, and aminocarbonyl-C_1-C_6alkyl;

$R^{7'}$ is hydrogen; or

R^7 and $R^{7'}$ together with the carbon to which they are bonded form $-C(=O)-$;

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkyl, halo, halo-C_1-C_6alkyl, and C_3-C_6cycloalkyl;

R^9 is selected from the group consisting of $-NR^{10}R^{11}$, $-C(=NR^{12})-NHR^{13}$, $-N=CR^{14}-NR^{10}R^{11}$, $-NR^{13}-CR^{14}=NR^{12}$, and $-NR^{13}-C(=NR^{12})-NHR^{13}$[, =NH, and -CH=NH];

R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13} and R^{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, hydroxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkyl, halo-C_1-C_6alkyl, C_1-C_6alkoxy, C_1-C_6alkoxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, and C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl; or any member of the group R^{10}, R^{11}, R^{12}, and R^{13}[, and R^{14}] together with the nitrogen to which it is attached forms a 5, 6 or 7 member heterocycle with any other member of the group, the heterocycle optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from N, O and S;

R^{15} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl, aminocarbonyl, C_1-C_6alkylaminocarbonyl, and di(C_1-C_6alkyl)aminocarbonyl; and

R^{16} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, C_3-C_{13}cycloalkyl, C_6-C_{10}aryl, acetylamino-C_1-C_{12}alkyl, C_1-C_6alkylcarbonyloxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, and C_6-C_{10}aryl-C_0-C_6alkylcarbonyloxy-C_1-C_6alkyl, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

provided that the compound is not N-[2-[1-(aminoiminomethyl)-3-piperidinyl]-1-oxoethyl]-4-phenylethynyl-phenylalanine methyl ester or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.